

## Collaboration + Education = CE (Cost Efficiencies)

Written by Elizabeth Sollis, Public Information Officer  
Wednesday, 05 October 2011 00:00

---

In Fiscal Year 2010, 4,652 Utah children were recipients of foster care services. Many maltreated youth who enter the child welfare system often end up in the juvenile justice system (Bilchik & Nash, 2008). A 2009 study by Child Welfare League of America indicates only 50% of foster youth complete high school. In Utah, between 1999-2003, only one of 926 youth who transitioned out of state custody attained a Bachelor's Degree (Assessing Outcomes of Youth Transitioning from Foster Care, Utah Department of Human Services, 2006).

With these statistics in mind, the Utah Coordinating Council for Youth in Custody secured temporary funding for a Statewide Education Specialist position to be a liaison between the State Office of Education, Juvenile Court and Department of Human Services – specifically, Division of Child and Family Services, Juvenile Justice Services, Services for People with Disabilities, and Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

“When kids succeed in school the long-term outcomes benefit both them and the community,” said Laurieann Thorpe, State Education Specialist. “If we can improve the education process for them, they can overcome their obstacles.”

Since the inception of the position in 2009, a lot has been accomplished. Collaboration between agencies has improved, resulting in better outcomes for Utah's youth and more efficient use of taxpayers' dollars. Multiple educational/training opportunities have been and continue to be provided to all partners involved in the protection and education of youth in state custody. Intake procedures have been streamlined and outlined online for educators statewide. In addition, a website and collaborative education guide, *Educating Youth in State Care*, have been developed as an invaluable resource for teachers, caseworkers and court/criminal justice professionals.

To learn more about *Educating Youth in State Care*, and to print the guide, visit <http://www.hs.utah.gov/education/>

## **Collaboration + Education = CE (Cost Efficiencies)**

Written by Elizabeth Sollis, Public Information Officer  
Wednesday, 05 October 2011 00:00

---

Website link: <http://www.hs.utah.gov/education/>

Link to guide: <http://www.hs.utah.gov/education/pdf/education-guide.pdf>

Photos: Attached